NUMBER 149 Carried JANUARY 30, 1943

NEWS-KEY

Current Activities of America First Congressmen ..... pages 1-3
The Case of Horace J. Haase ..... page 3
Edwin Webster, Senator Nye and Horace Haase " 4
New Book On Germany's Economic Warfare ..... " 4

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The Hour

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AMERICA FIRST CONGRESSMEN CONTINUE SUPPORT TO INDICTED PRO-AXIS PROPAGANDISTS

New Anti-Semitic Propaganda Campaign Is Launched By Fifth Columnists Facing Trial

On December 24, 1942, The Hour revealed that a clique of die-hard isolationist Congressmen, all former leading spokesmen for the America First Committee, are today giving support and encouragement to an insidious movement designed to undermine confidence in the war leadership of the Administration and to discredit American anti-fascist organizations. This movement, as we pointed out, centers around the pending trial of a group of pro-Axis propagandists who have been indicted by a Federal Grand Jury in Washington, D. C., on charges of conspiracy to undermine the morale of the United States armed forces. (When we wrote our December 24 article, there were twenty-eight persons who had been indicted; since then, on January 5, five more fifth columnists have been indicted on the same charge.)

We can now report that, encouraged by the support they are receiving from the America First Congressional clique, the thirty-three indicted pro-Axis propagandists and other American fifth columnists have launched a new propaganda offensive aimed at inciting a wave of anti-Semitism in the United States.

Pro-Axis Propagandists and Sympathizers

The pro-Axis propagandists named in the Washington indictments, many of whom were first exposed in The Hour, include George Sylvester Viereck, described by the Department of Justice as the "head and brains" of the Nazi propaganda machine in the United States; Edward James Smythe, who calls Hitler "The Twentieth Century Messiah"; Robert Noble, who remarked four days after Pearl Harbor, " Japan has done a good job in the Pacific ... I believe this war is going to destroy America."; George E. Deatherage, who traveled to Nazi Germany in 1937 to attend a World Congress of Anti-Semites and delivered an address entitled, "Will America Be the Jews' Waterloo?"; Ellis O. Jones, who believes, "The Japanese have a right to Hawaii ... I would rather be in this war on

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the side of Germany than on the side of Britain"; Ralph Townsend, already serving one prison sentence for having acted secretly and illegally as a paid Japanese agent; and William Dudley Pelley, chief of the stormtroop Silver Shirts, who lauds the war aims of Nazi Germany and Japan, and states that, "fundamentally our American Republic is at war to restore Bolshevism, instigated and underwritten by Mongolic Judaists."

It was regarding these gentlemen and their equally notorious associates that Senator Gerald P. Nye solemnly declared in the Senate on January 14: "They are no more guilty of conspiracy than I am."

Senator Nye's kindly attitude toward the indicted pro-Axis propagandists is shared by Senators Burton K. Wheeler and Robert A. Taft, Representatives Clare E. Hoffman and Hamilton Fish, and the other members of the America First Congressional clique. Senators Wheeler and Taft have written letters to Attorney General Biddle vigorously denouncing the indictments, and demanding an investigation of the Department of Justice because of its action against the fifth columnists now facing trial. Representative Hoffman has called for the forming of a Congressional Committee to investigate prominent anti-fascist organizations and individuals, as well as members of the Department of Justice. (See The Hour for December 24, 1942.) Representative Martin Dies has expressed his own eagerness to lead the investigation.

Charles B. Hudson, who is one of the indicted fifth columnists, has excellent reason for recently writing in his pro-Nazi anti-Semitic bulletin, America In Danger: "The fact that Representatives Hoffman and Fish and Senators Taft and Wheeler have come to the aid of the defendants, now gives our personal friends something to go on."

"Plot" Against Congress

According to the America First Congressmen, the action of the Department of Justice constitutes a secret plot against members of the Congress of the United States. The members they are so deeply concerned about happen to be themselves.

The America First Congressmen are chiefly alarmed because the America First Committee is named in the indictments as one of the organizations used by the pro-Axis propagandists in their conspiracy to sabotage the morale of American soldiers and sailors. Another cause for their anxiety is the fact that almost all of the indicted fifth columnists can be proven to have made use of Congressional franked envelopes in their propaganda work. In some mysterious fashion, these envelopes came from the offices of the very Congressmen now indignantly denouncing the indictments.

New Anti-Semitic Propaganda Campaign

From the outset, the campaign against the Federal indictments has had obviously anti-Semitic overtones. These first became evident in a booklet by Joseph P. Kamp, New York Fifth Column propagandist, whose

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Constitutional Educational League was named in the indictments as one of the agencies used in the conspiracy to sabotage the morale of the United States armed forces. Published immediately after the first indictment was handed down, and entitled Native Nazi Purge Plot - The Conspiracy Against Congress, Kamp's booklet pictured the indictment as a sinister "Communist" plot, partly engineered by the Roosevelt Administration to smear and "purge" certain Congressmen. Declaring that mysterious, dark forces, operating behind the scenes, were guiding the whole conspiracy, Kamp made clear what he was driving at by singling out for special abuse patriotic, Jewish organizations and by accusing American Jews of maintaining a "Gestapo network of spies."

Fifth column pamphlets, leaflets, bulletins and newspapers are now spreading this canard far and wide. Harvey Springer, anti-Semitic propagandist of Englewood, Colorado, headlines the news in his Western Voice that, "Congressman Clare E. Hoffman Defends Persecuted Christians." Court Asher's subversive paper X-Ray declares, "Congress Should Now Investigate Maloney and Department of Justice Which Readers Digest Says Is Overrun With Jews." Gerald B. Winrod, the notorious pro-Nazi propagandist, is circulating a form letter addressed to "Christians" asking aid for the "fine Christian people" named in the Federal indictment. E. J. Garner, the editor of the pro-Axis periodical Publicity is distributing a leaflet entitled, "Time To Dismantle the Jewish 'Gestapo'", in which he described the Federal indictments as the work of a Jewish "Octopus".

The America First Congressional clique is doing nothing to stem this vicious anti-Semitic propaganda campaign. On the contrary, these Congressmen themselves have cynically encouraged the campaign by repeatedly making snide references to "international" forces, which they say are operating behind the scenes and directing the "plot" against Congress.

At a time when national unity is imperative, the disruptive activities of the thirty-three indicted pro-Axis propagandists and their sympathizers in Congress constitute a real danger to the United States war effort. The Hour therefore urges that the Department of Justice make a special investigation of these activities, and that the American public be acquainted with the results of this investigation.

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THE CASE OF HORACE J. HAASE

A few days ago FBI agents arrested in New York City a man by the name of Horace J. Haase, on charges of evading the draft. When questioned, Haase bluntly stated that he had no intention of supporting the United States war effort. "The U.S.A. is fighting on the wrong side of the war," he told U.S. Commissioner Cotter, "while the Germans and the Japanese are fighting on the right side."

Horace J. Haase is a familiar figure in New York fascist circles. As leader of the anti-democratic organization, Americans for Peace, and

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as editor of the bulletin, America's Hope, Haase has specialized in the distribution of propaganda attacking the United Nations, denouncing the foreign policy of President Roosevelt, and calling for a negotiated peace with the Axis powers.

Before the Axis attacked the United States, Haase was a regular speaker for the Brooklyn Chapter of the America First Committee; his interesting dealings since Pearl Harbor with certain leading members of the Committee both in New York and in Washington, merit special attention from the FBI.

In this connection, one individual who might be questioned to good advantage is Edwin Sidley Webster, Jr., wealthy Wall Street broker, and former Executive Director of the New York Chapter of the America First Committee. On December 17, 1941, ten days after Pearl Harbor, a secret meeting of America First bigwigs was held at Webster's luxurious apartment at 35 Beekman Place, N.Y.C. Webster's guests included Charles A. Lindbergh and other key America Firsters. This meeting was addressed by Horace J. Haase. At Webster's apartment that night, Haase outlined for his attentive audience plans for maintaining the apparatus of the supposedly disbanded America First Committee. Picturing himself as playing a leading role in the future work of the Committee, Haase told Webster's guests: "... the organization should not be destroyed. I have never been in the limelight and I have nothing to lose. I can remain active in a quiet way. I should like to offer to keep the files. We must get ready for the next attack which must be made upon this Communistic Administration..."

No doubt, Edwin Sibley Webster, Jr., has valuable information on Haase's subsequent contributions to the cause of the America First Committee.

A person who might shed further interesting light on the case of Horace J. Haase is Senator Gerald P. Nye of North Dakota, today the staunch champion of various other pro-Axis propagandists. (See page 2 of this issue) According to reliable reports, Senator Nye is not unacquainted with Haase's recent efforts to organize a movement to promote a negotiated peace with the Axis. It might be advisable to ask Senator Nye a few questions in this connection.

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BOOK NOTE

Readers of The Hour will find of special interest the recently published book entitled Germany's Master Plan - The Story of Industrial Offensive. This important and authoratative account of Nazi Germany's economic warfare against the democratic nations is essential reading for all interested in Hitler's fifth column techniques. The authors are Joseph Borkin, economic adviser to Thurman Arnold's Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice, and Charles A. Welsh, cartel expert for the Office of Price Administration. The book, which is published by Duell, Sloan and Pearce, is an important contribution to our war effort.

181

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